

2023 -- H 5903 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002180/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- PUBLIC UTILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Tanzi, Donovan, Shallcross Smith, Boylan,  
Handy, Hull, Caldwell, Henries, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: March 01, 2023

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-35-18 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-35 entitled "Public  
2 Utilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-35-18. Bomb threats and similar false reports.**

4 (a) Whoever, knowing the report to be false, transmits or causes to be transmitted to any  
5 person by telephone or other means a communication falsely reporting, warning, or threatening  
6 either the ~~location~~ existence of any explosive or other dangerous substance or contrivance, or a  
7 shooting or other dangerous event or happening, at a location causing terror, anxiety, unrest, fear,  
8 or personal discomfort by that false report, warning, or threat to any person or group of persons,  
9 or prompting an evacuation or lockdown of a location or other law enforcement response, shall be  
10 guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment at the adult correctional institutions for  
11 not more than ten (10) years, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by  
12 both fine and imprisonment.

13 (b) For any person charged under subsection (a) of this section, the court may consider any  
14 factors, including whether the person poses a danger to an individual, the community, or the  
15 defendant, when making bail determinations, and may impose any reasonable conditions or court  
16 order including, but not limited to:

17 (1) An extreme risk protection order pursuant to the provisions of chapter 8.3 of title 8;

18 (2) A no trespass order for any educational, religious, or public institution or building;

19 (3) A mental health assessment and/or a referral for mental health treatment; and/or

1            [\(4\) Substance abuse counseling.](#)

2            SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would expand the crime of false reporting to include shootings or other dangerous  
2 events.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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